
Karl Marx is back in fashion again! That's the view, at least, of one of Germany's biggest left-wing publishing houses, Dietz, which says that copies of Marx's best-known works have been selling very well since the start of the current global economic crisis.

Bankers of the world unite! You have nothing to lose but your bonuses, big houses and Caribbean holidays; and now that so many are unemployed, you've finally got time to read Karl Marx's **dire** warnings about capitalism.

That's how today's London Times newspaper puts it, **parodying** the **workers' rallying call** that opens Marx's "Communist Manifesto".

And there may be something in it, because according to German booksellers, Marx's **seminal** works are suddenly in demand again after a **lull** of many decades.

Visitors to Marx's German birthplace of Trier have soared this year to forty thousand; the **curator** of the town's museum of Marxism is quoted as saying he's lost count how many visitors he's heard mutter that Marx was right all along.

Free market critics of Marxism, of course, have long argued that socialism leads to poor quality goods, **authoritarianism**, the **gulags** and the rest; but for now, certainly as long as the credit crunch lasts, the **pro-lending expansionists** are likely **to stay under as dark a cloud as** their Marxist rivals.

David Bamford, BBC World Affairs Reporter

Vocabulary and definitions

dire	very serious
parodying	imitating in a funny way
workers' rallying call	words which made workers unite against capitalism
seminal	original and influential
lull	period of quiet or lack of activity
curator	person who looks after a museum or exhibition
authoritarianism	a system in which people must obey the government
gulags	prison camps, especially for people who disagree with the government
pro-lending expansionists	people who think that you can develop the economy by lending money
to stay under as dark a cloud as	be as unpopular as

Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2008/10/081020_marx_in_fashion.shtml